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STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN EDWARD H. REES, CHAIRMAN, HOUSE POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE, ANNOUNCING HEARINGS AND INVESTIGATION OF PRESIDENT'S LOYALTY PROGRAM.

The grave international situation which has been precipitated by actions of Communist dominated countries, the recent exposure of subversive activities in our government and the indictment of certain Communist leaders in the United States have demonstrated the absolute necessity of making certain that only those persons who are loyal to the United States are employed by the Federal government.

For more than three years I have urged the Executive Branch to eliminate Federal employees who advocate Communist party doctrines and believe in the forcible overthrow of our form of government. Evidence of the lack of cooperation which Congress has received from the Executive Branch with respect to this matter is contained in a recent directive of the President. He ordered the heads of the departments and agencies to refuse requests from Congress regarding reports, records and files relating to the loyalty of Federal employees or prospective employees.

The overwhelming majority of Federal employees are loyal to the United States. However, on numerous occasions I have advised Congress as to the continued employment of persons about whom there was a reasonable doubt of their loyalty to the United States. In each instance the Executive Branch has refused me information with respect to these matters.

Because of these recent developments, it is my view that the House Post Office and Civil Service Committee should conduct hearings to determine what action has been taken or is being taken by the loyalty boards in the departments and agencies and by the Loyalty Review Board with regard to the

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operation of the President's Loyalty Program. The American people are

entitled to know whether this Program is being carried out as intended by Congress. Representatives of these Boards in the Executive Branch will be requested to furnish the Committee with information as to their policies, procedures and accomplishments.

The President's Loyalty Order, under which Federal employees and prospective employees were to be examined has received the capable help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Aside from the 438 employees who resigned from their positions during the F. B. I. investigations, the program has been ineffective.

During the course of these investigations a question was raised regarding the loyalty of 5,510 employees, and a full investigation has been, or, is being, conducted of each. There is no information available as to what action has been taken by the numerous loyalty boards with respect to these cases.

Unless the F. B. I. investigations are seriously considered by the Loyalty Boards, and employees *of doubtful loyalty* are removed from the Federal pay roll, the \$12,000,000 which the government has spent for the President's Loyalty Program have been wasted and the American people denied adequate protection.